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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 UNICOLORS, INC., a California Corporation;
11

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 APOLLO APPAREL GROUP, LLC, a New
15 York Limited Liability Company; THE TJX
16 COMPANIES d/b/a TJ MAXX., a
17 Massachusetts Corporation; and DOES 1-10,
18 inclusive,

19 Defendants.

Case Number: 2:16-cv-383

**PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR:
1. COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT
AND/OR
2. VICARIOUS AND/OR CONTRIBUTORY
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

Jury Trial Demanded

20 Plaintiff UNICOLORS, Inc. ("Plaintiff" or "UNICOLORS") by and through its undersigned
21 attorneys, hereby prays to this honorable Court for relief and remedy based on the following:

22 **INTRODUCTION**

23 Plaintiff is a California-based company engaged in the apparel industry as a textile converter of
24 imported and domestic fabrications. Plaintiff creates, or purchases and obtains, exclusive rights
25 to unique two-dimensional graphic artworks for use on textiles and garments, and those textiles
26 and garments are transacted primarily in the fashion industry. Plaintiff owns these designs in
27 exclusivity and makes sales of products bearing these designs for profit. Plaintiff's business is
28 predicated on its ownership of these designs and it spends a considerable amount of time and

resources creating and obtaining top-quality, marketable and aesthetically-appealing designs. Customers of Plaintiff, including possibly DOE defendants named herein, take design samples with the understanding and agreement that they will only utilize Plaintiff to reproduce said designs should they wish to do so, and will not seek to make minor changes to Plaintiff's proprietary work to reproduce the same elsewhere, yet use those designs in furtherance of their business in violation of both their contractual agreement with Plaintiff and Plaintiff's copyrights. No other party is authorized to make sales of product bearing Plaintiff's proprietary designs without express permission from Plaintiff. This action is brought to recover damages for direct, vicarious and contributory copyright infringement arising out of the misappropriation of Plaintiff's exclusive designs by the Defendants, and each of them.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action arises under the Copyright Act of 1976, Title 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*
2. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a) and (b).
3. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(a) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred.

PARTIES

4. UNICOLORS, Inc. ("Plaintiff") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California with its principal place of business in the County of Los Angeles, at 3251 East 26th Street, Vernon, CA 90058.
5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant APOLLO APPAREL GROUP, LLC ("APOLLO"), is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of New York and doing business in California, with its principal place of business at 1407 Broadway Suite 2000, New York, NY 10018.

- 1 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant THE TJX
2 COMPANIES d/b/a TJ MAXX (“TJX”), is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a
3 corporation organized and existing under the laws of Massachusetts and doing business in
4 California, with its principal place of business at 770 Cochituate Road, Framingham, MA
5 01701.
- 6 7. Named Defendants, and Does 1-10, may be collectively referred to as “Defendants.”
- 7 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that some of Defendants Does 1
8 through 3, inclusive, are manufacturers and/or vendors of garments to Defendant, which
9 DOE Defendants have manufactured and/or supplied and are manufacturing and/or supplying
10 garments comprised of fabric printed with Plaintiff’s copyrighted design(s) (as hereinafter
11 defined) without Plaintiff’s knowledge or consent or have contributed to said infringement.
12 The true names, whether corporate, individual or otherwise, and capacities of defendants
13 sued herein as Does 1 through 3 are presently unknown to Plaintiff at this time, and therefore,
14 Plaintiff sues said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this
15 complaint to allege their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.
16 Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each of defendants
17 designated as a DOE is responsible in some manner for the events alleged herein and the
18 damages caused thereby.
- 19 9. Defendants DOES 4 through 10, inclusive, are other parties not yet identified who have
20 infringed Plaintiff’s copyrights, have contributed to the infringement of Plaintiff’s
21 copyrights, or have engaged in one or more of the wrongful practices alleged herein. The true
22 names, whether corporate, individual or otherwise, and capacities of defendants sued herein
23 as Does 4 through 10 are presently unknown to Plaintiff at this time, and therefore, Plaintiff
24 sues said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this
25 complaint to allege their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained.
- 26 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that at all times relevant hereto each
27 of Defendants acted in concert with each other, was the agent, affiliate, officer, director,
28 manager, principal, alter-ego, and/or employee of the remaining defendants and was at all

1 times acting within the scope of such agency, affiliation, alter-ego relationship and/or
 2 employment; and actively participated in or subsequently rarified and adopted, or both, each
 3 and all of the acts or conducts alleged, with full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances,
 4 including without limitation to full knowledge of each and every wrongful conducts and
 5 Plaintiff's damages caused therefrom.

6 7 **CLAIMS RELATED TO DESIGN**

8 11. Plaintiff is the owner and author of a two-dimensional artwork called E0518 ("Subject
 9 Design"). (Exhibit A).

10 12. Plaintiff applied for a copyright from the United States Copyright Office for the Subject
 11 Design and was granted Registration No. VA 1-851-109 effective on January 7, 2013.
 12 (Exhibit B).

13 13. Plaintiff formatted the Subject Design for use on textiles, sampled the Subject Design, and
 14 negotiated sales of fabric bearing the Subject Design.

15 14. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, without Plaintiff's authorization,
 16 Defendant APOLLO purchased, sold, manufactured, caused to be manufactured, imported
 17 and/or distributed fabric and/or garments comprised of fabric featuring a design which is
 18 identical, or substantially similar to, the Subject Design. A true and correct copy of such a
 19 garment is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Said garments include but are not limited to
 20 garments sold by TJX bearing the label "Harmony + Havoc".

21 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that, without Plaintiff's authorization,
 22 Defendant APOLLO purchased, sold, manufactured, caused to be manufactured, imported
 23 and/or distributed fabric and/or garments comprised of fabric featuring a design which is
 24 identical, or substantially similar to, the Subject Design. A true and correct copy of such a
 25 garment is attached hereto as Exhibit C. Said garments include but are not limited to
 26 garments sold by TJX bearing the label "Harmony + Havoc".

27 16. At various times Defendant TJX owned and controlled offline and/or online retail stores, and
 28 each, Plaintiff's investigation revealed that garments comprised of fabric bearing the Subject

Design were being offered for sale, garments which were manufactured and/or imported under the direction of the Defendants, and each of them.

17. None of the aforementioned transactions were authorized by Plaintiff, and all were in violation of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(For Copyright Infringement – Against all Defendants, and Each)

18. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference as though fully set forth the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 17, inclusive, of this Complaint.

19. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, accessed the Subject Design through, without limitation, the following: (a) access to Plaintiff's design library; (b) access to authorized or unauthorized reproductions in the possession of other vendors and/or DOE Defendants; and (c) access to Plaintiff's strike-offs, swatches, paper CADs and samples.

20. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, infringed Plaintiff's copyright by importing, creating, making and/or developing directly infringing and/or derivative works from the Subject Design and by importing, producing, distributing and/or selling infringing garments through a nationwide network of retail stores, catalogues, and online websites.

21. Due to Defendants' acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered substantial damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial.

22. Due to Defendants' acts of infringement, Plaintiff has suffered general and special damages to its business in an amount to be established at trial.

23. Due to Defendants' acts of copyright infringement as alleged herein, Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would not otherwise have realized but for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable to Defendants' infringement of the Subject Design in an amount to be established at trial.

1 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
2 have committed acts of infringement alleged herein with actual or constructive knowledge of
3 Plaintiff's rights such that Plaintiff is entitled to a finding of willful infringement.

4 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

5 (For Vicarious and/or Contributory Copyright Infringement – Against All Defendants)

6 25. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference as though fully set forth the
7 allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 24, inclusive, of this Complaint.

8 26. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
9 knowingly induced, participated in, aided and abetted in and resultantly profited from the
10 illegal reproduction, importation, purchase, distribution and/or sales of product featuring the
11 Subject Design as alleged herein above.

12 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them, are
13 vicariously liable for the infringement alleged herein because they had the right and ability to
14 supervise the infringing conduct and because they had a direct financial interest in the
15 infringing product.

16 28. By reason of the Defendants', and each of their, acts of contributory and/or vicarious
17 infringement as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial
18 damages to its business in an amount to established at trial, as well as additional general and
19 special damages in an amount to be established at trial.

20 29. Due to Defendants' acts of contributory and/or vicarious copyright infringement as alleged
21 herein, Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would
22 have not otherwise realized bur for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such,
23 Plaintiff is entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable
24 to Defendants' infringement of the Subject Design, an amount to be established at trial.

25 30. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
26 have committed acts of infringement alleged herein with actual or constructive knowledge of
27 Plaintiff's rights such that Plaintiff is entitled to a finding of willful infringement.

1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against all Defendants as follows:

3 **Against All Defendants**

4 With respect to Each Claim for Relief:

- 5 1. That Defendants, their agents and servants be enjoined from infringing Plaintiff's copyrights
6 in any manner;
- 7 2. That Plaintiff be awarded all profits of Defendants plus all losses of Plaintiff, the exact sum
8 to be proven at time of trial, or, if elected before final judgment, statutory damages as
9 available under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*;
- 10 3. That Plaintiff be awarded its attorneys' fees as available under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C.
11 § 101 *et seq.*;
- 12 4. That Plaintiff be awarded pre-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 13 5. That Plaintiff be awarded costs of litigation; and
- 14 6. That Plaintiff be awarded such further legal and equitable relief as the Court deems proper.

15
16 **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

17 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury in this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
18 38 and the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution.

19
20 Dated: January 18, 2016

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23 Respectfully submitted,

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25 /s/ C. Yong Jeong
26 C. Yong Jeong, Esq.
27 Attorney for Plaintiff, UNICOLORS, INC.
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